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PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

March 10, 2014

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, and members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to your committee.

I am writing in support of **HB 5448**, An Act Concerning the Discontinuance of Highways and Private Ways by Municipalities.

I support this bill because it will provide necessary clarification to otherwise ambiguous statutes. I have two constituents in Colchester who own a promising piece of land that is undevelopable due to certain law proceedings. They have no public road access, nor right of way access, to the land. They are prohibited from developing this property and establishing utility connections. These circumstances are ultimately the result of a court case ruling that interpreted the Town of Lebanon's intentions when closing the road many decades ago.

House Bill 5448 offers a future remedy to landowners who have title to property under ambiguous legal circumstances. This legislation will normalize the process of road discontinuance, updating terms to modern language and creating notification standards on such an action. The bill would therefore codify what will be good policy.

This bill has broad bipartisan support and all parties involved are satisfied with its language.

I appreciate your consideration of this legislation and the opportunity to speak before your committee.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Linda Orange  
Deputy Speaker, 48<sup>th</sup> District